## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

## **LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1. (Original) A method for preparing a compound represented by the general formula (4) comprising the following two steps;

a step of the reduction from a compound represented by the general formula

(1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula

(3), and

a step of the decarboxylation from a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) to a compound represented by the general formula (4),

[General Formula 1]

HO 
$$CO_2X$$
 (1)

wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]

wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]

HO 
$$OH$$
  $OH$   $CO_2X$  (3)

wherein X and n are the same as the above,

[General Formula 4]

$$HO \longrightarrow H$$
  $OH$   $OH$ 

wherein n is the same as the above.

- 2. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out by the catalytic hydrogenation.
- (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the reduction step is carried out using a hydride reducing agent.

- 4. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1 to claim 3, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.
- 5. (Original) A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or the general formula (3) by the catalytic hydrogenation,

[General Formula 1]

$$HO \longrightarrow OH O CO_2X (1)$$

wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]

wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]

HO 
$$OH$$
  $OH$   $CO_2X$  (3)

wherein X and n are the same as the above.

- 6. (Original) The method according to claim 5, wherein the catalytic hydrogenation is carried out under acidic conditions.
- 7. (Original) The method according to claim 6, wherein palladium loaded on an activated carbon is used for the catalytic hydrogenation.
- 8. (Original) A method of reducing a compound represented by the general formula (1) to a compound represented by the general formula (2) and/or (3) using a hydride reducing agent in a solvent of not more than 30 weight times the amount of a compound represented by the general formula (1),

[General Formula 1]

HO 
$$CO_2X$$
 (1)

wherein X represents a hydrogen atom, an alkali metal or an alkali earth metal; and n represents 0 or 1,

[General Formula 2]

wherein n is the same as the above,

[General Formula 3]

HO 
$$OH$$
  $CO_2X$  (3)

wherein X and n are the same as the above.

- 9. (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein a reducing agent is fed in a divided manner or fed by dropping and the reaction is carried out at not more than 30°C.
- 10. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim [[8 or]] 9, wherein sodium borohydride is used as a reducing agent.
- 11. (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 5 to claim 10, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 12. (New) The method according to claim 2, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.
- 13. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein both of the reduction step and the decarboxylation step are carried out in a water solvent.

- 14. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein sodium borohydride is used as a reducing agent.
- 15. (New) The method according to claim 14, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 16. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 17. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 18. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 19. New) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.
- 20. (New) The method according to claim 5, wherein the reaction is carried out in a water solvent.